MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon-Israel Talks

Deadlock on Agenda -- The Lebanese-Israeli talks opened in Khaldah on 28 December with speeches by the chairmen of the three delegations attending the talks, Jerusalem radio reported. The talks reached a deadlock when the delegation leaders met immediately after giving their speeches to discuss the agenda, Jerusalem radio revealed. The Israelis' proposed agenda of normalization, security arrangements, and withdrawal of forces is "absolutely unacceptable" to the Lebanese, who proposed to discuss withdrawal of forces, security arrangements and then "future relations," the radio added.

Speeches -- Pointing with satisfaction to statements made by Israeli officials that Israel has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon, chairman of the Lebanese delegation Antoine Fattal declared that Lebanon's first objective is total withdrawal of all foreign troops stationed in Lebanon so Lebanon can restore sovereignty and full authority over all of its territory, Beirut radio reported. Although Fattal asserted that the 1949 armistice agreement with Israel is still valid, the chairman of the Israeli delegation, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, replied in his speech that Lebanon's actions before, during, and after the 1967 6-day war had terminated the armistice agreement, Jerusalem radio reported. However, Kimche added that Israel feels no enmity toward Lebanon and hopes that the current talks will lead to the signing of a new agreement that is only a step away from a "full, final, formal peace treaty."

Al-Jumayyil-Al-Wazzan Relations -- Noting that Lebanese Government officials did not sign the agreement they reached with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Jerusalem radio claimed that both the Lebanese president and foreign minister were prepared to sign the agreement on 24 December. However, the United States convinced Al-Jumayyil not to sign because signing might create a "crisis" with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and because Israel would attend the talks in any case, the radio added. Apparently, there are differences between Al-Jumayyil and Al-Wazzan which could hamper negotiations, Jerusalem radio reported citing an editorial in the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV.

Security Situation -- The IDF deployed tanks and armored personnel carriers and generally reinforced its troops in the Khaldah area on 27 December, according to Jerusalem radio reports. The area was quiet on 27 December, Jerusalem radio added. Lebanese Christian militiamen withdrew from Khaldah to Ad-Damur and the Aramun hills, AFP reported.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven injured when an Israeli patrol was ambushed south of Sidon on 27 December, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. An IDF military convoy was shot at in Sidon on 26 December, Beirut radio noted. IDF radio asserted that "hostile elements" in Lebanon have recently been doing their best to harm the Lebanon-Israel talks and noted that officials in southern Lebanon expect the attacks to continue.

Tabah

Sharon in Tabah -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon entered Tabah on 24 December accompanied by armed senior IDF officers, the Tel Aviv daily DAVAR reported on 27 December citing senior Egyptian military sources. Noting that Israeli-Egyptian agreements stipulate that the IDF must not enter the disputed area, the paper stated that Egyptians in Tabah are reportedly very angry about the "repeated" violations of the agreement. Egyptians have submitted a "sharp report" to the Israel-Egypt joint committee concerning IDF visits to Tabah, Jerusalem radio reported.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Meets Kreisky -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Majorca on 27 December, AFP reported. Although AFP noted speculation that Kreisky is acting as an intermediary in indirect PLO-Israeli talks concerning an exchange of prisoners, both the Israeli Embassy and the PLO office in Vienna denied any knowledge of the talks, Jerusalem radio reported. A source close to Israeli Prime Minister Begin stated that if such talks are taking place, they have humanitarian but not political significance, the radio added.

'Arafat Cairo Visit Denied -- Citing an "informed" Palestinian source, the Cairo weekly magazine MAY reported that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat would visit Cairo soon, MENA reported. The source claimed the visit is a result of the significance of strategic relations with Egypt and the fact that the Palestine National Council did not make the resumption of relations conditional on Egypt abandoning its support for Camp David, MENA added. However, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir denied that 'Arafat would visit Cairo soon, KUNA reported on 26 December citing a WAFA press release. The PLO official declared that 'Arafat would not visit Cairo as long as Egypt supports the Camp David policy, KUNA added.

Iraq

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz declared that he is prepared to go to Cairo to discuss resuming Egyptian-Iraqi diplomatic relations, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing AL-AHRAM.

Iran

The Qom Islamic revolution prosecutor, a Labor Ministry financial and executive under secretary and the prosecutor stationed in Tehran were dismissed from their posts, Tehran radio reported.

Zhao Ziyang Tour

Before leaving Algiers on 27 December, PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang declared that the talks his delegation attended in Algeria enabled the two countries to further develop relations and that both sides are convinced that bilateral relations can advance with "gigantic strides," Algiers radio reported. The PRC delegation flew from Algeria to Morocco, where a working session headed by Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid and the PRC premier was held in the evening, Rabat radio reported.

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DEPUTY MINISTER CITES FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

LD260836 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Sarwar Yurish, DRA deputy foreign minister, in an interview with a correspondent of the BAKHTAR news agency concerning the peaceful policy of the DRA toward its neighbor and the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, said:

With the victory of the national and democratic April Revolution and especially its new and evolutionary phase, Afghanistan's international relations entered a new qualitative stage. The April Revolution forever ended our country's foreign policy dependency on imperialists and colonialists and for the first time put our country's foreign policy in the service of the high interests of our working people, national independence, social progress and international peace. The theses of the PDPA put forth on the occasion of the second anniversary of the April Revolution says the fundamental principles of the DRA and the action program of the PDPA, approved by the party national conference, form the foundation of the DRA's foreign policy. In these important party and state documents, it clearly is stated that the important objectives of DRA foreign policy are to preserve and strengthen friendly relations with all countries irrespective of their social and political systems, especially with neighboring countries and Muslim states and nations, on the basis of mutual respect for each other's independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity and noninterference in each others' internal affairs.

Yurish said it also clearly is stated in the action program of the PDPA that one of the important objectives of DRA foreign policy is the creation of equal international political conditions for the elimination of the sinister results and consequences of the policies of the past governments concerning colonialism and exploitation, the ending of the undeclared war waged by imperialism and international reactionary forces against our country and the creation of peaceful conditions for creative and constructive work by our working people for the implementation of the tasks of the April Revolution. In addition to this, the continuation of an active and positive policy of nonalignment and the strenghtening of friendly relations and cooperations with all progressive countries and international progressive organizations are principles of the DRA foreign policy that cannot be violated.

The deputy minister added: Our policies have always been based on these principles and foundations; therefore, the DRA Government and the PDPA have always worked for the peaceful solution of the problems around Afghanistan through direct talks between the DRA and its neighbors, especially with Pakistan and Iran. The clear evidence of our claim is the reflection of [word indistinct] in the speeches, interviews and messages of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and the president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; in the interviews and speeches of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; in the speeches of the high-ranking party and state personages; in the announcements of the BAKHTAR news agency and also in the recent televised speech of DRA Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost and other important documents of the party and state, which have gained the support of world progressive countries and governments and all progressive and peace-loving circles.

Sarwar Yurish in this connection stressed the statements of the DRA Government on 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981: In these statements, all aspects of DRA foreign policy and the constructive proposals of the DRA Government in relation to our neighbors and for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan have been clearly explained and they show the good will of the DRA Government for the peaceful solution of the present problems.

Yet, despite all our positive and constructive efforts, we regret to say that international imperialism, headed by the United States, Chinese hegemonism and their collaborators in the region are continuing their destructive and aggressive action against the DRA and are giving new dimensions to the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan. They not only send their servants into Afghanistan for destruction and sabotage and merciless killings of innocent people, they also continue in the international arena their greatly destructive activities, poisonous propaganda and slander against the DRA, contrary to all accepted international norms.

Yurish concluded: The DRA Government has taken extensive and comprehensive measures for the peaceful solution of the problems around Afghanistan, has shown new initiative in this respect and will continue to do so. However, now it is the duty of the neighboring countries, especially Pakistan and Iran, to show political (?reason), realize the truth of the irreversible April Revolution, and reply to the peaceful proposals of the DRA Government and no longer permit the use of their countries as bases for aggression by imperialists against revolutionary Afghanistan.

AFP ON SOVIET TROOPS' OFFENSIVE IN KONAR VALLEY

BK271519 Hong Kong AFP in English 1502 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Dec 27 (AFP) -- Soviet troops have for the past two weeks been carrying out an offensive against rebel infiltration in the Konar Valley in Afghanistan on the Pakistani border, Afghan travelers reaching here from the area said today.

It was the first massive Soviet intervention in the valley in a year and a half. Only a month after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan began three years ago, the Red Army suffered heavy losses in fighting in the Konar Valley, which is a strategic pass for arms and food convoys to rebels inside the country.

The travelers said several hundred Soviet soldiers, supported by a large number of tanks and armored cars, penetrated into the valley all the way to Asmar, which is held by a unit of Afghan Government troops. The troops' advance was preceded by heavy shelling of villages in the Konar and several neighboring valleys. Tanks were deployed at several points on the "Durand line," the Pakistani-Afghan border on the left bank of the Konar River.

Faced with such a large-scale offensive, the mujahidin fell back to defensive positions, rebel sources here said. The sources noted that two months ago, a large Soviet-Afghan convoy driving into the valley to relieve troops stationed in government strongholds surveying the border were forced to retreat after being ambushed by several hundred mujahidin.

Meanwhile, travelers confirmed rebel reports that two Soviet helicopters and a half dozen Soviet military vehicles were destroyed in the night of December 21 to 22 in a rebel rocket attack on Jalalabad airport, 150 km (90 miles) east of Kabul.

REPORTAGE ON TURKISH PRESIDENT'S VISIT 23-25 DEC

BK231301 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpt] A red carpet welcome was accorded to President Kenan Evren of Turkey when he arrived in Dhaka this afternoon on a 2-day state visit to Bangladesh. As the Turkish president alighted from his special aircraft of the Turkish airlines to begin his visit, a 21-gun salute boomed to welcome him. President Assanuddin Chowdhury and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad received him warmly at the airport. Begum Assanuddin Chowdhury and Begum Ershad were also present.

Banquet Remarks

BK241131 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Turkish President Kenan Evren has expressed his happiness that an atmosphere of stability and peace has been established in brotherly Bangladesh. Speaking at a banquet given in his honor by President Assanuddin Chowdhury at Banga Bhavan last night, the Turkish president said it is in the interest of other countries in the region that a country attains stability and welfare, establishes peace and order within its borders and become sufficiently strong to prevent foreign aggression.

He said the formal talks scheduled for today will provide them an opportunity to study the fields of potential cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey. This will also enable them to review the means and ways of exploiting such fields of cooperation to the mutual benefit of both the people.

The Turkish president said there are many fields in which Turkey at her given level of development can cooperate with Bangladesh.

President Assanuddin Chowdhury in his speech called for complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all illegally occupied Arab territories and demanded the restoration of the rights of the Palestinians in Jerusalem under the PLO leadership.

President Chowdhury also expressed grave concern at the situation in the Middle East and stressed the need for unity of Islamic nations and widening of friendship and bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Turkey for the continued progress and prosperity of the two brotherly people.

Expressing his grave agony and concern at the continued crisis in the Middle East, President Assanuddin Chowdhury said the Muslim world is passing through a critical juncture in the history of Islam. He said we were (?shockingly) distressed at the unprovoked repeated aggression by Israel against our Palestinian and Arab brothers. The president said Bangladesh firmly believes that there could be no just and lasting peace in the Middle East without a complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all illegally occupied Arab land. He said Bangladesh welcomes the Arab plan which can serve as the basis for a fair and lasting solution of the Palestinian problem, which represents the core of the Middle East crisis.

Expressing his grave concern at the continued war between two brotherly Muslim countries -- Iraq and Iran -- President Chowdhury said Bangladesh hopes that efforts for ending this [word indistinct] war will soon be successful.

He also expressed his satisfaction that Bangladesh and Turkey share a similarity of views on many international issues and both the countries, as fellow members of Organization of Islamic Conference, are pledged to upholding the objectives and the principles of the conference.

Speaking about the bilateral relations, he expressed the confidence that the friendship and spirit of fraternal cooperation existing between Bangladesh and Turkey will continue to widen and deepen to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The president emphasized that Bangladesh deeply values her friendship with Turkey.

Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad attended the banquet. The deputy chief martial law administrators, Cabinet ministers, diplomats and officials also attended it.

24 Dec Talks

BK241642 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Bangladesh and Turkey held a formal talk on bilateral, regional and international issues in Dhaka today. The Bangladesh side was led by Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Ershad while the Turkish side, by President Evren. The talks lasted 2 hours.

A spokesman told newsmen later that the talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. On the bilateral side, it was agreed that Turkey will directly purchase from Bangladesh jute and jute goods rather than through a third country. The Bangladesh side showed interest in the purchase of cotton from Turkey. It was also decided that the two countries should have better communication, particularly in airlinks and shipping.

Gen Ershad explained Bangladesh's position on all major international issues and was pleased to note the identity of views between the two countries.

The Turkish president expressed his appreciation of the hard work done by the present Bangladesh leadership in restoring peace and stability.

Ankara Report

TA241130 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpt] President Kenan Evren, who is on an official visit to Bangladesh, is continuing his contacts in Dhaka, the capital city. Turkish-Bangladesh official talks were held today. A cultural agreement and a protocol was signed at the end of the official talks. President Evren and Bangladesh President Chowdhury headed their respective delegations. Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen, State Minister Sermet Refik Pasin, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsud Doha and other officials from both sides also participated in the meeting.

Ercan San, Ali Kirca and Serdar Dinli from the Turkish radio and television center report that the promotion of trade and technical cooperaton, seeking means of transferring technical know-how and the early meeting of relevant committees for the realization of these possibilities were discussed during the official talks. The Bangladesh delegation was briefed on Turkey's views on international and regional problems. Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen and the Bangladesh minister of education and religious affairs signed the culture cooperation agreement and the protocol on cooperation between the two radio and television corporations.

Ershad, Evren on Ties

BK251007 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] President Kenan Evren of Turkey has expressed his firm conviction that bilateral relations between his country and Bangladesh will further develop in various fields in the coming days. He was speaking at a luncheon hosted in his honor by Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad in the army officers mess in Dhaka today.

President Evren said there exists traditional and brotherly ties between our two countries. These historical bonds have been further strengthened by similar approaches the two countries have toward world problems and the support and solidarity which they provide to each other in international forums. He said Turkey is ready to cooperate with Bangladesh and share our experiences with her in development activities.

Earlier, welcoming the Turkish president, General Ershad said Bangladesh and Turkey, bound by abiding ties stretching over centuries, will share their experiences of shaping a better future for their people.

Referring to the global recession and extremely unfavorable trade and aid environment, Gen Ershad said utmost care has been taken while formulating our development strategy. Priority has been given to agriculture, population planning, energy and education.

Gen Ershad reiterated Bangladesh's firm commitment to the UN Charter, the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], and the Nonaligned Movement. As members of the OIC, he said, Bangladesh and Turkey are determined to work unitedly for the solidarity of the Islamic nation. The two countries share similarity of views on many international issues. Bangladesh is opposed to the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. She believes that peace in the Middle East could be restored through unconditional Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land, restoration of Arab and Islamic sovereignty over Jerusalem and the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a sovereign state under the leadership of the PLO. Bangladesh welcomes the Arab peace plan as a fair basis for a settlement.

On the Gulf war, he recounted the role of the OIC peace committee in trying to end the conflict.

Referring to relations with our neighbors, the CMLA said his government is maintaining relations with them on the basis of good will, trust and understanding and on the principle of respect for each other's sovereignty. The response to Bangladesh's initiative for South Asian regional cooperation will soon find concrete expression in various fields, he added.

Joint Statement

TA251754 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Turkish-Bangladesh joint statement was issued today. The statement says that Turkish President Kenan Evren and the delegation accompanying him were received with warm feelings of friendship that reflect the strong cordial and fraternal sentiments of the Bangladesh people and Government toward the Turkish people and Government.

The statement says: During the visit of the Turkish delegation, the grounds were prepared for a beneficial exchange of ideas on international issues of mutual interest, particularly concerning their own regions and on ways and means to strengthen their bilateral relations.

On the subject of official talks between the Turkish and Bangladesh delegations headed by President Evren and Bangladesh Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Ershad, the statement says: These talks have been held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding symbolizing the friendly links between the two countries. The two sides have reviewed relations between Turkey and Bangladesh in various fields. The prospects of bilateral economic cooperation were exmained and the two sides have confirmed their desire to expand their trade and to increase cooperation in the economic, industrial, technical and cultural fields. The two sides note with satisfaction the signing of the first cultural exchange program prepared within the framework of the cultural agreement existing between the two countries and a protocol envisaging cooperation between the two countries' radio and television corporations.

The statement adds: The two sides reviewed the international situation, sharing the view that international issues threatening world peace have attained new proportions. The statement notes that both sides expressed their view that the international community must exert persistent efforts to diffuse the trouble spots in the world.

The statement says: The two sides have expressed their belief that all efforts must be made in a bid to safeguard the fundamental principles of international relations based on preserving global peace and security, on respecting the sovereignty, equality, national independence and territorial integrity of each country and the solution of international problems through peaceful negotiations without resorting to force or threat of force. The two sides also have confirmed the necessity of the full compliance with the UN convention and principles.

In the statement, the two sides have expressed their desire for more intensified cooperation among the members of the Islamic conference countries in a bid to rapidly fulfill their goals in all fields.

The two sides reviewed the present situation in the Middle East, strongly denouncing the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the slaughter of innocent Arab and Palestinian peoples, for which Israel must be held responsible, and have asked for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, pointing out that they fully support all efforts in this direction. The two sides have expressed their decisive belief that, taking into consideration this framework, the just and lasting peace in the Middle East necessitated the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab lands -- including Jerusalem -- and the fulfillment of the legal and irrevocable Palestinian national rights.

The statement says that both sides express their deep concern about the armed clash between Iran and Iraq -- two Muslim and fraternal countries -- and call for a peaceful and early solution to the conflict. The two sides confirm that they support the efforts made by the Islamic peace committee and other bodies trying to find a just and honorable solution to this problem.

After reviewing the situation in Afghanistan, the two sides expressed their hope for a political solution that will provide for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and for the opportunity of the Afghan people's self-determination without any foreign interference.

The statement stresses that both Turkey and Afghanistan consider international terrorism a serious threat to international society and denounce terrorist activities based on the relevant UN decisions. The two sides have called for efficient bilateral and multilateral cooperation to provide for the elimination of violence and for combatting terrorism and for the safeguarding of all diplomatic and other missions to be protected against such acts.

On the international economic situation, the statement says: The two sides have reviewed the economic difficulties which have been assuming large proportions -- both in the developing and developed countries -- calling for global talks on the issue. The sides expressed their concern over tendencies of growing protectionism being witnessed in certain industrialized countries and have declared their support for international efforts aimed at the free development of international trade. They also have stressed the importance of economic cooperation among countries aspiring to self-sufficiency. The two sides have expressed their commitment to continue to strengthen the close cooperation among Islamic countries would be in accordance with mutual interests and would contribute to world peace and stability.

The statement concludes with the gratitude expressed by the Turkish side for the fraternal welcome and hospitality accorded them during their visit. Bangladesh President Chowdhury and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen Ershad gladly accepted the invitation extended them to pay an official visit to Turkey.

25 Dec Departure

BK251241 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] President Kenan Evren of Turkey was given a warm and hearty send-off when he left Dhaka today for home at the end of 3-day state visit to Bangladesh. President Assanuddin Chowdhury and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad saw him off at the airport. Begum Assanuddin Chowdhury and Begum H.M. Ershad, the deputy chief martial law administrators, ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, high civil and military officials were present at the airport to bid goodbye to the Turkish president.

SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

BK250949 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] A seven-member Soviet trade delegation arrived in Dhaka today for trade talks with Bangladesh. The delegation is led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade I. G. Grishin. Besides reviewing trade relations between the two countries, the delegation is expected to sign the fourth barter protocol with Bangladesh.

Protocol Signed 27 Dec

BK271724 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol providing for a total trade turnover of over 1,950 million takas. Under the protocol signed in Dhaka today, Bangladesh will export to the Soviet Union raw jute and jute goods, hides and skin, tea, tobacco, wire and cable, specialized textiles, readymade garments, handicrafts, cutlery, [word indistinct], camera film, and some other nontraditional items. The country will import essential industrial raw materials, including raw cotton, pig iron, billets, diesel oil, kerosene, and machinery.

CHOWDHURY, ERSHAD GREET SOVIET ANNIVERSARY

BK210745 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] President Assanuddin Chowdhury and Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad have sent messages of felicitations and greetings to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Union. In their messages, the president and the CMLA expressed their sincere hopes that the friendly relations between the two countries will be further strengthened and developed in the years to come to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR BAHRAIN, QATAR

BK180942 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha left Dhaka yesterday evening on an official visit to Bahrain and Qatar. He will have talks with the counterparts of these two countries on international and regional issues and also on matters of bilateral interest. He will also call on the amirs of Bahrain and Qatar.

NATIONAL AIRLINE DECLARED ESSENTIAL SERVICE

BK241124 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] The government has declared all classes of employment under the Bangladesh Biman [airline] Corporation as essential for a further period of 6 months.

'1975 DEADLY INCIDENT' LEADER VISITS BRIEFLY

BK241513 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 20 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel, retired, Farooq-ur-Rahman alias Farooq, one of the leaders of the 15 August 1975 deadly incident [in which Mujibur Rahman was assassinated] came to Dhaka on 12 December from Bangkok by Thai International. He left Dhaka for Bangkok at midday on 15 December by Bangladesh Biman. The purpose of Farooq's brief visit to Bangladesh is not known.

DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN CONCLUDE 24 DECEMBER

BK250134 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] India and Pakistan have found areas of convergence in their proposals for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation and a nonaggression pact. An Indian spokesman told newsmen that it is clear there are divergences as well to which the two sides are addressing themselves.

Foreign secretaries of the two countries, Rasgotra and Niaz Naik, concluded their discussions on the two drafts in New Delhi today. India's draft is for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation, while Pakistan has proposed a nonaggression pact. Both the drafts were discussed simultaneously according to the mandate given to the officials by the heads of two governments, who met on 1 November in New Delhi.

Newsmen were told that further discussions will be required on the concept and formulations and accordingly the dialogue between the two countries will be continued through diplomatic channels and further meetings. Naik has invited Rasgotra to visit Pakistan at a date to be fixed later.

Asked what was Pakistan's objection to India's proposal for a treaty since both the countries are committed to peaceful coexistence and renunciation of war, the Pakistani spokesman Mujahid Hussain replied: None. But the spokesmen of both the sides were, however, not willing to reveal the points of divergence which need further discussion. They, however, emphatically denied that there was no progress in this round of talks.

The Indian spokesman pointed out that it is for the first time that points of convergence in the two drafts have been noted. The agreement to continue the discussions is in itself a manifestation of progress and cause of optimism.

The newsmen were also told that the two sides exchanged views on all aspects of the coming nonaligned summit to be held in New Delhi in March.

Teams of officials from the two sides discussed several other bilateral matters, including civilian prisoners, Intertelecommunication Union credit card held by journalists, additions to the list of shrines which pilgrims can visit, training of Sikh sevadars [religious volunteers] in Pakistani gurdwaras in India and missing personnel of seagoing vessels.

The Indian side was told that six hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane will be tried in an open court in Pakistan. India has demanded their return.

Regarding prisoners, the two sides today exchanged lists of those under trial and those who are still serving their sentences. They also considered modalities of how consular officials can see them. The idea is to cut down bureaucratic delay.

Commission Agreement Text

BK241501 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1433 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] India and Pakistan on 24 December initialled the agreement for establishment of a joint commission to strengthen understanding and to promote cooperation between the two countries for mutual benefit.

The document, which contains 10 articles, was initialled by Foreign Secretary M. Rasgotra and visiting Pakistani Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik.

The agreement is subject to ratification and shall come into force provisionally on the date of signing by the foreign ministers of the two countries in March next.

The commission will be led by India's external affairs minister and the foreign affairs minister of Pakistan as its cochairmen.

The joint panel will meet once a year alternately in New Delhi and Islamabad after formal ratification of the agreement.

Following is text of the joint commission [as received]:

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, mindful of the need to strengthen good neighbourly relations and desirous of strengthening mutual understanding and of promoting their bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields have agreed as follows:

Article 1. An Indo-Pakistan joint commission is established to strengthen understanding and to promote cooperation between the two countries for mutual benefit in economic, trade, industrial, education, health, cultural, consular, tourism, travel, information, scientific and technological fields.

Article 2. The joint commission will submit mutually agreed reports and recommendations within the area of its competence to the appropriate authorities of the two governments. Both governments will consider taking such legal and administrative measures as will facilitate the fulfillment of the task entrusted to the joint commission.

Article 3. The joint commission may appoint subcommissions as may be deemed necessary to deal with specific areas of cooperation. The subcommissions will submit reports of their work to the joint commission at each session.

Article 4. The joint commission will normally meet once a year alternately at New Delhi and Islamabad. The respective delegations will be led by the minister of external affairs of India and the minister for foreign affairs of Pakistan and will include, in addition, representatives designated by each government.

Article 5. The subcommissions will meet as often as mutually considered necessary and may invite to such meetings, as may be agreed, official or now official experts and advisers.

Article 6. The joint commission and its subcommissions may adopt such rules of procedures as may be necessary for their functioning in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

Article 7. The decisions and other conclusions of the joint commission will be drawn up in the form of reports of agreed minutes.

Article 8. The agenda for each session will be prepared after exchanging proposals through diplomatic channels at the latest in the month preceding the opening of the session and will be adopted on the opening day of the session.

Article 9. This agreement shall remain in force for a period of 5 years and shall be automatically renewed for each subsequent period of 5 years unless either party gives a written notice to the other 6 months in advance of its intention to terminate the agreement. This agreement may be modified by mutual consent.

Article 10. The present agreement is subject to ratification. It shall enter into force provisionally on the date of signing and definitively on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

Signed at [blank spacing] on this [blank spacing] day of 1983 in duplicate in Hindi, Urdu and English language. All the texts being equally authentic except in case of doubt when the English text shall prevail.

Talks Termed 'Satisfactory'

BK261103 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik, now on a visit to India, arrived in Bombay from New Delhi this morning. Speaking at a dinner given by him in New Delhi to his Indian counterpart Rasgotra, he said the outcome of the 2-day talks held in New Delhi between the Pakistan and Indian delegations on the establishment of a joint commission and other bilateral relations was satisfactory. He said this is only the beginning and the process set into motion would bring closer not only the governments but also the peoples of the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indian Foreign Secretary Rasgotra said the talks marked a step forward in Indo-Pak relations. He said the future of Indo-Pak relations is now not as was in the past.

DEMONSTRATORS HURL ROCKS AT GANDHI'S MOTORCADE

BK280738 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 28 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi escaped unscathed when the open jeep in which she was riding was hit by a rock thrown by right-wing militants, Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported today.

The incident took place last night in Neelasandra, a village in Karnataka, southern India, where Mrs. Gandhi was campaigning for local elections. Mrs. Gandhi's jeep was inching along a narrow village street when it was met by some 50 demonstrators, brandishing the conservative Janata Party flag and shouting invectives. They hurled stones at the prime minister's vehicle. One of the missiles hit the jeep and Mrs. Gandhi was immediately moved to a closed vehicle, PTI said.

Local elections are scheduled on January 5 in the states of Karnataka and Andra Pradesh where Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party has held the majority for over 30 years. Similar elections will also take place in Tripura where a coalition led by an independent Marxist party holds the reins of power.

Mrs. Gandhi has combed through the smallest districts in the three states for the last eight days and has given dozens of campaign speeches. She denounced the coalitions of convenience, both Marxist and right-wing, formed at election time against her party. Mrs. Gandhi also called on the voters to unite and face up to both internal and external threats to India.

GANDHI SPEAKS ON EVENTS IN TRIPURA, ASSAM

BK231137 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The prime minister has justified the proclamation of part of north Tripura as a disturbed area early this year. Addressing a press conference in Agartala last evening, she said as the area is part of the international border, it is the center's duty to take appropriate steps to protect it.

She said the election commission's attention has been drawn to the reports about possible rigging during the ensuing assembly election in the state. She hoped that the state government will take all necessary steps to ensure a peaceful poll. She assured the center's help in the purpose.

Mrs Gandhi expressed sorrow over the death of two police personnel killed by extremists last evening. She refuted the allegation that the center is apathetic toward Tripura in allocating funds. She alleged that Marxists are misusing the central aid for furthering their party interest.

Referring to Assam, she said the center has not taken a decision yet on extending president's rule in the state or to hold elections. She said the government is having discussions with the opposition parties on this issue. The prime minister ruled out any resumption of talks with Laldenga.

Earlier, addressing public meetings she said the center's sole objective is to develop economically backward classes irrespective of caste, creed, religion, and language. She pointed out that the center has formulated separate development schemes for tribals under the 20-point program.

HOME MINISTER DISCUSSES BARODA, ASSAM, PUNJAB

BK260933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The union government has asked the states to review the whole gamut of the functioning of the police and to reorient the police training program. Home Minister P.C. Sethi gave this information at a meet the press program in Indore yesterday. He said cooperation of the people and the press was necessary to keep the morale of the police force high.

Referring to the recent incidents in Baroda, Sethi said that only a small area of the city was affected by the disturbances. He said the cell constituted in the union Home Ministry would make an indepth study of the cause of the incidents there and make suggestions to avoid their recurrence.

Referring to the Assam talks, Sethi said a decision on holding elections in Assam will be taken after the outcome of the proposed tripartite meeting in Delhi early next month.

About the agitation in Punjab, the home minister has denied the allegation that Congress-I has supported the policies or the ideas of Sikh leader Sant Bhindernwale.

Asked whether there are some foreign hands in the escalation of the agitation in the state, Sethi said there are reports that some people abroad are trying to aggravate the situation. He said the center is determined to resolve the issue through peaceful means.

SIKH LEADERS CLAIM 'CONFRONTATION' PREPARATIONS

BK271420 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 27 (AFP) -- The leadership of Sikh agitationists in Punjab today said they were preparing for an "all out confrontation" with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's federal government to achieve their demands.

Sang Harchand Longowal, chairman of the Sikhs' political party "Akali Dal", told reporters at Amritsap, "without an allout confrontation" the government was not going to concede to their demands, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

"We have already started preparing ourselves and the convention of retired Sikh armymen was a step in this direction," he was further quoted as saying.

Over 10,000 retired Sikh army men had attended the meeting last week, called by Mr Longowal to discuss their active support of the mass stir. Among them were several senior ex-officers of the armed services, earlier reports said.

In a dispatch from the Sikh holy "Golden Temple" town on the border with Pakistan, the agency said Mr Longowal also announced another bigger convention of retired Sikh armymen there soon.

The retired Army personnel would be organised at the central, district, circle and village levels. Two senior men from among them had been assigned to tour the state and conduct their meetings, he added.

The last ex-army men convention had already been noted with concern by government spokesman and leaders of various political parties. The "dangerous" move then had also attracted critical comments in the press.

Mrs Gandhi's federal government has renewed its offer to resume talks with the agitationists but there has been no ready, definite response from the other side. Also an extremist section among the Sikhs appeared to be against any fresh dialogue and insisted that the government now announce its decision on the basis of the talks already held.

Punjab Chief Minister (head of the administration) Darbara Singh, who belonged to Mrs Gandhi's ruling Congress Party, said the other day that the federal government would resume talks early next month, following elections for new legislative assemblies in southern and northeastern states. Mrs Gandhi had been busy with a hectic campaign herself for her party in the election, thus finding little time for other such problems as Punjab these days, he said.

GENERAL DISCUSSES INDIA-PRC BORDER, SEPARATISTS

BK261557 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 17 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General A.S. Vaidya, chief of staff of the Eastern Command, stressed the need for maintaining a vigil on the India-China border. He told newsmen on 16 December: "We have to maintain a constant vigil at the India-China and Tibetan borders at least until the border issues are settled. China's statement on Arunachal State during our negotiations at the diplomatic level was very unfortunate. We are keeping the strictest vigil on the India-China border and our soldiers are guarding it with firm determination."

Gen Vaidya alleged that underground and separatist Mizos elements have set up camps in Bangladesh and are undergoing training there. Those camps are visible from the Indian side. The general questioned how the Mizos could set up camps in that country without the consent of the Bangladesh authorities. The general further alleged that a group of extremists from Tripura, numbering 50-70, also was receiving training in Bangladesh.

Gen Vaidya answered several questions from newsmen on the situation in Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal, and Tripura. He said if anyone thinks the Armed Forces will remain silent in the face of the secessionist and terrorist activities unleashed by the underground and extremist elements, he is living in a fool's paradise.

The general said India's relations with Bangladesh are "good", but should be better. He said he hopes India-Bangladesh relations will further improve.

FRANCE TO BEGIN SUPPLY OF URANIUM 'SHORTLY'

BK260857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] France will begin shortly the supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur atomic powerplant, possibly by April next. A spokesman of the Indian Embassy has said in Paris that the supply will begin when the commercial aspects of the Indo-French agreement have been finalized. The agreement was reached in New Delhi last month.

The spokesman said the delivery schedule and other aspects are being worked out by a French team, which is now having talks in Bombay with the Atomic Energy Commission.

A PTI report from London says that France is understood to have explained to the European economic committee and fellow members of the London Club of nuclear suppliers that its agreement with India does not constitute a new contract. It is merely stepping in to replace the United States, which had a 30-year agreement with India.

The Indian Embassy spokesman said India and France are also working out arrangements for the establishment of an Indo-French center for advanced research in India. The center will be financed jointly by the two countries.

NINE ARRESTED FOR 23 DEC AMBUSH IN TRIPURA

BK250708 Delhi Domes[illegible] Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] In Tripura, nine persons were taken into custody in connection with the ambush of a jeep by armed tribal extremists at (Jiljora) on Thursday. Six persons were killed in the attack. According to official sources combing operation is continuing in the area.

POLICE SPOKESMAN SAYS BARODA CURFEW 'RELAXED'

BK261613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] In Baroda, the curfew has been relaxed today from 0500 to 2200. A police spokesman said that no incident has been reported from any disturbed area. Curfew will be relaxed tomorrow also from 0500 to 2200.

MUSLIM LEADER ARRESTED IN MEERUT 26 DECEMBER

BK270610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] The imam of Delhi Juma Masjid, Maulana Abdullah Bukhari, was arrested in Meerut yesterday for defying prohibitory orders by entering Meerut City limits. According to the superintendent of police, he was served with the order banning his entry into the city which he declined to honor. Later, he was released on furnishing a personal bond.

REPORTAGE ON IRANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER'S VISIT

Drug Trafficking Discussed

BK271105 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Matters relating to common interest between Iran and Pakistan were discussed at a meeting in Islamabad today between the visiting Iranian delegation led by Minister for Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the Pakistan delegation led by Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon. The discussions focused mainly on measures for control of drug trafficking and movement of smugglers. The welfare of Afghan refugees who have taken shelter in Pakistan and Iran also came under discussion.

Later, the Iranian minister told newsmen that he had suggested the setting up of a commission of the two countries to devise measures for checking smuggling.

Afghan Refugees Visited

BK271107 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Iranian Minister for Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today visited an Afghan refugee tented village near Peshawar. Talking to them, he said he had come to convey compliments from the Iranian people to them who have been forced to leave their country for the sake of Islam. He expressed the hope that the Afghans' struggle would be crowned with success through their unity.

Earlier, an elder of the Afghan refugees explained the circumstances which forced them to leave their homes in Afghanistan and seek shelter in Pakistan.

War, Afghan Issue Viewed

LD272226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri, who has gone to Pakistan at the head of a delegation, took part in a press conference in Islamabad and answered the questions put to him by reporters concerning the imposed war, the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan, and the role of peace delegations.

Concerning the imposed war and American conspiracies against the Islamic revolution, Nateq-Nuri said that, as our country wishes to be independent so that its fate is not decided in Washington and in the Kremlin, it was confronted with various American conspiracies inside the country. As these conspiracies were defeated, it incited Saddam to attack Iran. However, by relying upon God and following Islam and the Koran, our nation remained steadfast and will not stop fighting until it has expelled and punished the aggressor and until it has received war reparations.

Referring to Saddam's missile attack against Dezful, Nateq-Nuri said that we can give a decisive response to the enemy anytime we want.

Concerning Afghanistan, while hoping for the victory of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, the interior minister said we believe the aggressor should withdraw without any preconditions and the people of Afghanistan should decide their own fate.

Concerning the remarks of the secretary general of the Islamic conference concerning new attempts to end the war imposed by the Zionist Iraqi regime against Iran, Nateq-Nuri said: We have not changed our position and they do not have anything new to say.

YAQUB KHAN HOLDS TALKS WITH HABIB CHATTI

BK271640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization held a 90-minute talk with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today.

During the talks, they exchanged views on matters relating to the Islamic world, Middle East, Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. The foreign minister apprised the secretary general of his impressions about the president's recent visit to the Soviet Union and the United States. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also briefed Habib Chatti on the latest developments in the Afghan situation, particularly the forthcoming visit of Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general.

During the talks, Habib Chatti was aided by his adviser (Ahmad Kamal) and the foreign minister was aided by high officials of the Foreign Ministry. The foreign minister later hosted a reception in their honor. Habib Chatti has since arrived in Peshawar on a 2-day visit, during which he will visit an Afghan refugee camp.

SAUDI CHIEF OF STAFF BEGINS WEEK-LONG VISIT

BK271646 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] General (Muhammad Salih al-Ahmad), chief of the General Staff of the Royal Saudi Armed Forces, arrived in Islamabad today at the head of a nine-member delegation on a week's official visit to Pakistan. General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and top officers of the three wings of the country's Armed Forces welcomed him at the airport. He is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of General Mohammad Iqbal Khan.

FINANCE MINISTER IN TURKEY FOR ECONOMIC TALKS

For reportage on the visit to Turkey of Finance, Commerce, Planning, and Provincial Cooperation Minister Ghulan Ishaq Khan and his subsequent attendance at the Pakistan-Turkey economic meeting, see the Turkey section of the 28 December and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

MARCHES MARK SOVIET AFGHAN OCCUPATION ANNIVERSARY

LD271208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Army, the Muslim Afghans residing in Tehran and other cities in our country staged a number of large processions and marches. The marchers, carrying pictures of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Montazeri, and other officials of our country, chanted such slogans as: "The Afghans are awake and hate both East and West," "Unity, Unity, a factor for liberation," [words indistinct], "It is a day of mourning today, the day of Russian aggression against us." They called for the expulsion of Soviet military personnel from Afghanistan.

The marchers' slogans also referred to the emerging differences among the ruling regime in Afghanistan, citing such measures as the strict security enforced in the streets of Kabul and bombardment of civilian regions in Afghanistan, as a sign of the ruling regime's weakness and incompetence. The Muslim Afghans residing in Tehran, who staged their procession from Baharestan Square, continued their march past the Soviet Embassy in Tehran and assembled at Ferdowski Square. There they issued a 14-point resolution declaring their full support for the Islamic revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and expressed their appreciation for the support given by Ayatollah Montazeri to the world Islamic and liberation movements.

Our correspondents in Mashhad, Zahedan, Kerman, Esfahan and Saveh reported that Muslim Afghans, at the conclusion of their marches, issued resolutions stressing the unity and solidarity among all world Islamic movements, condemning Eastern and Western hegemony and supporting all world liberation movements in their struggle against the world oppressor.

DISMISSED QOM, TEHRAN OFFICIALS TO FACE TRIAL

LD271122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the central headquarters responsible for the enforcement of the imam of the nation's decree met today in the presence of the Supreme Court president and the prime minister to examine various reports and offenders' cases.

The Qom Islamic revolution prosecutor's case was examined at today's meeting. His incompetence, revealed by his continued and repeated interventions outside his jurisdiction, his disregard for relevant tasks and responsibilities, and his treating accused persons in an un-Islamic manner were proved to the headquarters. Therefore, the Qom Islamic revolution prosecutor was dismissed from his post. His case was sent to the judges disciplinary tribunal for further investigation.

A Labor Ministry financial and executive under secretary, charged with unlawfully detaining a member of staff for half a day within the Labor Ministry building, was dismissed from his post on the basis of point four of the imam of the nation's decree and his case sent for further investigation to the penal court.

The case relating to the prosecutor stationed in Tehran municipality also was examined at today's meeting and the said person's incompetence, due to his unlawful use of the Tehran municipality prison, his acting outside his relevant jurisdiction, and his treating accused persons in an un-Islamic manner, were proved to the headquarters. He was dismissed from his post and his case sent for further examination to the judges disciplinary tribunal.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE NO 1,165 OF 27 DECEMBER

LD271742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,165 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The conditions at the fronts of the imposed war and the results of the self-sacrifices of the Armed Forces during the past 24 hours hereby are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots:

During the past 24 hours, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on most of the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam; it was more intense on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front.

On all those fronts, the mighty combatants of Islam silenced enemy fire by using artillery and other weapons, killing or injuring a number of enemy personnel and damaging their positions and armored equipment.

On the Marivan front, thanks to the heavy artillery fire of the Ground Forces, the positions and fortifications of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in the Rashan, (?Kanimangah) and (?Banasuseh) sectors were crushed, parts of their positions and bunkers were destroyed, and a number of their personnel were killed or wounded.

In the Nowsud sector, the combatants of Islam silenced enemy fire, destroying a 106-mm gun.

On the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam continued their defensive operations and fortification of their positions. Through their return fire on enemy artillery and tank positions, they silenced the enemy's fire and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

In the Pol-e Now sector in Khorramshahr, exchanges of fire continued yesterday between Gendarmerie combatants and Iraqi forces. The Iraqi criminals yesterday once again brought Abadan and Khorramshahr under artillery and heavy weapons fire, wrecking three houses and a part of a hospital.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES DEFENSE MINISTRY PERSONNEL

LD231340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Salimi, accompanied by personnel from the Scientific and Defense Research Department and political-ideological officials from the Defense Ministry, this morning met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The defense minister presented a report on the activities of ministry personnel during the war. Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, then made the following speech.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I want to express my thanks to you beloved ones who have made Islam and your country proud and who have made me happy with your reports and your achievements.

With every step forward, we become more familiar with the crimes committed against this country by America and its ilk and by the internal agents of America. Their greatest treason was that they did not allow our youngsters and our Armed Froces to develop. If from the start, our Armed Forces had been Islamic armed forces and if they had possessed Islamic commitment and acted upon it, our current situation would have been different. Nevertheless, the Almighty and the all-blessed God extended His shadow of grace upon this nation and we succeeded in stopping these evils half-way.

Of course, we are still in the middle of the road. I hope the gentlemen will continue their work with complete confidence and will bear in mind that God will reward them. Your activities will count as worship. In addition to the fact that they will be noticed in the world and everywhere, they also will be registered in your balance sheet.

Although we have lost a number of beloved ones in this war and although this country has been subjected to so much crime -- recently we have suffered a great crime in Dezful and now I express my condolences to the families who have fallen victim to this event and pray to God for the recovery of their wounded ones -- nevertheless, what our country has achieved is much greater and more valuable than all these losses. Of course, we cannot make amends for the losses inflicted upon individuals. However, we hope other people in the future will be able to make amends for them. Those who are pessimistic, who are sitting in a corner, and who point out the deficiencies and ask why so many of us have been killed, why the situation is such and such, and other such questions -- they never look at the other side to see what we have achieved. Of course, we and everyone know how many of us have been killed, crippled, or injured. However, we did not start the war. The gentlemen ask: Why did you confront America so that this war was imposed? From the beginning, we knew that to confront America and all other powers would have such consequences. However, this is a criticism these gentlemen should address to the prophet himself. Why did he confront Abu-Sufyan so that his uncle and some great men of Islam were killed? He should have submitted and should have sat down in the corner of his house. They also should make this criticism of the lord of the faithful. Everybody advised him to allow Mu'awiyyah and Ash'ath to rule over Sham [present-day Syria]. The same issue caused the death of Ammar [one of the early disciples of Muhammad] and many thousands of people. With such thinking, criticism also should be levelled against his holiness the lord of the martyrs: Why did he leave the tranquil Medina to confront a tyrannical government with only a small number of people?

If all of them and all the prophets throughout history have been mistaken and if, according to the logic of these gentlemen, they should have compromised with the bullies, then we too are mistaken and confess to our mistake. However, if the issue is different, if humanity and human values are the issue, if the issue is to prevent the crimes committed by the bullies against humanity, if the issue is the question of the destruction of valuable individuals, then we could not have remained in our own homes while America was ruling over this country or stood before America with folded arms, flattering it so that it would give us bread and weapons; or allowed it to store in this country certain weapons that it could use when a war broke out or to make bases in our country. God bestowed His mercy upon us and we captured the bases America had made for itself -- all on which was booty, war booty.

In any case, we should consider and weigh the two issues and see what we have lost and what we have gained. What we have gained is the revival of Islam. Islam had become only a name. In the name of Islam they wanted to eliminate Islam.

Of course, from the beginning, they could not say that they did not believe in Islam. They used to say that they believed in Islam but they constantly were making amendments to it and they were destroying Islamic teachings one by one. Thanks be to God, at the moment, the people see Islam in this country and see that there is no trace left of all that corruption. They see that all the people have been made active and know that they should confront America and all its bullying and that they should be independent. One such example is what you have been saying; these gentlemen have done things that no man would have believed they could have done. God willing, in the future, you will do more and better.

May God bestow success on all of you and all of us in serving and saving this nation, which has been under the domination of the aliens and under the domination of corrupt regimes. Put your trust in God's bounty. May God protect all of you. God's blessings and peace be upon you.

26 Dec Arabic Report

GF260846 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has addressed the commanders of the Iranian Armed Forces. He expressed gratitude and pride in all Islamic forces and the popular forces that participate in the fronts of the imposed war in defense of the Islamic revolution and our Islamic homeland.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces explained the characteristics of struggle in addition to its moral and divine values. He also explained the action of the mujahidin and combatants to achieve God's goals and the resulting values. He stressed the importance and prestige of martyrs in Islam. The leader imam noted that the Muslim combatants directed a blow to this tyrant -- who is heavily armed with U.S. and Soviet weapons in addition to other weapons supplied by the superpowers, and who is backed financially and militarily by the reactionaries in the region -- so that this blow will defame the Saddamists throughout history.

The founder of the Islamic Republic stressed the power of faith -- in the forces of the Islamic army -- which was crystallized in the victories on the fronts of the imposed war. He added that the superpowers and those who protect Saddam have to realize -- from now on -- military power and sophisticated weapons are absolutely incapable of confronting the people and their holy revolutionary wrath.

It is worth noting that the imam's address to the commanders of the Islamic army was read to them in one of the southern fronts by Seyyed Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI SERMON SCORES DEZFUL ATTACK

LD241304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the martyrdom of the 11th bright star on the firmament of imamate and sainthood, the Holy Imam Hasan al-'Askari -- may God's peace be upon him -- millions of our Muslim compatriots, participating in the auspicious Friday prayers ceremonies throughout the country, observed the martyrdom anniversary of the 11th immaculate imam. Tehran University today witnessed a vast congregation of our Muslim, revolutionary Tehran citizens who, while observing the ceremony of mourning for the martyrdom of the model of piety and selflessness, the Holy Imam Hasan al-'Askari, may peace be upon him, held the auspicious Friday prayer ceremonies under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Tehran's acting Friday imam devoted his second Friday prayer sermon to current domestic and international problems. Glorifying the martyrdom anniversary of the 11th bright star of the firmament of imamate and sainthood, the Holy Imam Hasan al-'Askari, may peace be upon him, spoke about the significance of Muslim participation in the Friday prayers, adding: These very Friday prayers infuriate our enemies because the prayers are the manifestation of the presence of the people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the attack launched by the criminal, Zionist Iraqi regime against the populated areas of Dezful and the propaganda disseminated by foreign radios and mass media aimed at justifying the criminal enemy's missile attack on Dezful:

[Begin recording] The Iraqis perpetrated this heinous crime. Of course, it is extremely bitter for us and, indeed, the wrong done to the warm-hearted people, the Dezful citizens -- these heroic, patient resistant people -- compels vengeance on these Saddamists as soon as possible to quiet the hearts of these people, to calm the feelings of these mourners, these tragedy-stricken people. Today, I see more than 5,000 from our mobilization forces taking part in this ceremony; these people are leaving for the front. Right here, on behalf of these Muslims, may we tell you -- dear ones who have prayed with us and have taken part in the Friday prayers, which are the prelude to fundamental battles, and who are leaving for the fronts in a few hours-- please hear the voice of the people! The people want you to quickly avenge the Dezful citizens and the rest of the martyrs of the Saddamists and 'Aflaqites! In my Arabic speech, I explained to the world and gave an ultimatum and here I beg to say to you, combatant brothers leaving for the front, that we have given Saddam an ultimatum and we have come to the sure conclusion that words of justice penetrate the ears of neither Saddam nor his 'Aflaqites, nor are Saddam's protectors ready to submit to right.

This time, your war and your operations should be different. This time, you should move to occupy the source of the fire and the center of these rockets, the center of these bombs. All these places should be occupied and placed at the disposal of the Muslims; thereby, such fire should be permanently ended. [cries of "Death to Saddam"]

God willing, this slogan of yours will soon be realized. We have made our moves; we have prepared our defense. Our defense is adequate and our nation -- which sees the power of its armed forces, the Army, the Guards Corps, the mobilization, the tribes, the police, the Gendarmerie and the rest of the forces engaged in battle on the fronts -- will no longer accept the war being conducted in such a manner that Saddam has the audacity to subject a city such as Dezful to a hail of missiles whenever his baser desires so dictate. Henceforth, God willing, our military forces should abandon their defensive posture and move to achieve and retrieve right, to reform Iraqi society, and to open up a path on which the Iraqi people can retrieve their rights from these oppressors. [end recording]

GHARAZI: NO U.S., SAUDI ROLE IN OIL PRICING

LD231316 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 23, IRNA — Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi on Wednesday said the United States and Saudi Arabia will have no role in determining the oil price in future.

Gharazi was addressing a seminar of the governors general from across the country. The seminar was inaugurated early this week by President 'Ali Khamene'i and was addressed by a number of top government officials, including Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardeabili.

Gharazi in his address gave a detail briefing to the governors general about the recently-held OPEC meeting of oil ministers in Vienna. He said in future OPEC will serve the deprived people of the world.

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Ahmad Tavakkoli also addressed the governors general and focused his speech on the proposed labour law.

KHAMENE'I ACCEPTS NONALIGNED SUMMIT INVITATION

LD261326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Indian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Khaleeli, this morning met with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president, and submitted to him a written message from Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, in which the Indian prime minister formally invited Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to participate in the seventh Nonaligned Movement summit conference to be held in New Delhi.

Khamene'i accepted the invitation and wished the conference success. He said: All members of this movement must endeavor to prevent this conference from being influenced by the superpowers so that it will indpendently function for the materialization of Nonaligned Movement principles.

PRESIDENT, KORDESTAN GOVERNOR CONFER 27 DECEMBER

LD280040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Kordestan Governor General Asgharnia, accompanied by governors and deputies from Marivan, Saqqez, Baneh, Sanandaj, Bijar, Bukan and Mahabad, today met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

At this meeting, the Kordestan governor general presented a report on political and social affairs and the extensive participation of the people in the elections.

Emphasizing that the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam have been neutralized in the Kordestan region, Khamene'i said: Our enemies have many ambitions regarding this region. They thought that by creating disorder there the people would join them and government sovereignty would be jeopardized. However, we saw that this did not happen and Almighty God guided the people. The people also discovered the truth due to their pure nature and did not support the counterrevolutionaries. This caused the great world policies [as heard] to be defeated in the region. He added: When in Kordestan cities the clergy, the officials, and the people of the province defend Islam and the Islamic revolution and are not deceived by the counterrevolutionaries. This support causes American policies to be defeated there.

Finally, emphasizing the fact that the movement of the order of the Islamic Republic is toward greater stability and strength and referring to the importance of unity among the Shi'ites and the Sunnis, Khamene'i said: Great emphasis should be placed on the unity between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis because, from the beginning, the imperialists and the enemies of Islam tried to create divisions between the Sunnis and the Shi'ites and they make use of every means in the implementation of this vile goal. However, we should neutralize their conspiracies through our vigilance.